

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend paragraph [0032] as follows:

[0032] Accordingly, the network management system 300 analyzes the alarm data format to determine at step 504 whether the nature of the alarm corresponds to a logical error or a physical error. If the alarm generated from a certain network element is determined to correspond to a physical error, like loss of signal (LOS), alarm indication signal (AIS), loss of frame (LOF), loss of pointer (LOP), etc., rather than a logical alarm like loss of link [[(LOS)]] (LOL), poor quality of signal (QOS), etc., the network management system proceeds to step 506 to simply parse the data format of the received alarm information for storage into the database 302.